

February 15, 2007

To: Members of the Montana House of Representatives House Fish,  
Wildlife and Parks Committee

**Re: HB 497 – APRN authority to endorse disabled hunter permits**

Chairman Milburn, Members of the House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee, my name is Kathy Palm Jorgensen and I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who strongly urges you to vote yes on House Bill 497.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are providing more and more of the primary care in Montana. These skilled professionals tend to see the elderly, disabled, rural residents and those with limited funds. And, while Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are already becoming the primary care providers for increasing numbers of Montanans, that situation will likely only grow as the shortage of Family Practitioners grows, particularly in the rural areas of our state.

Requiring a physician to authorize a disabled hunter permit would require many of these hunters to see a provider who is unknown to them at an unnecessary monetary expense as well as the time and effort required to get to that appointment.

It is certainly within the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner to make these assessments and doing so eliminates one more barrier for these hunters to access the sport they love. Your vote for this bill will add in providing Montanans with continuing access to high quality health care without unnecessary barriers to care.

Please support House Bill 497.

Thank You for Your Service,

Kathy Palm Jorgensen, APRN  
Great Falls, MT